Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

SECRET
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO. [redacted] 50X1

[redacted] 50X1

COUNTRY Hungary/USSR

DATE DISTR. 30 Sept 53

SUBJECT Soviet Influence on Sports in Hungary

NO. OF PAGES 3

50X1

PLACE ACQUIRED [redacted]

NO. OF ENCLS. (LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED BY SOURCE [redacted] 50X1

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

DATE OF INFORMATION

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION 50X1

1. Since the Communist Revolution in Russia, the Central Committee of the CP has tried officially to make sports popular among all classes of Soviet society. Their idea was to rouse the interest of the people in sports and by this means increase the number of Soviet athletes. After World War II, as the policy of encouraging sports among the masses continued, interest in Soviet sports developed enormously, and many outstanding athletes were found among the participants. The Party soon had not only a quantity of athletes, but quality as well, and gave orders to equal and better the existing world records. The Party gave strong support to outstanding athletes in order to increase their capabilities. 50X1

2. [redacted] Soviet athletes did not take part in any international sports competitions until 1946. For this reason they developed a different style, different understanding, techniques, and tactics, compared with other teams competing in international sports events. They advanced in their own special way. However, misinterpretation of the international sports regulations and lack of opportunity to meet foreign athletes made it quite impossible for Soviet athletes to attain international standards. The Party was aware of the need for experience in international competition and therefore they started to invite outstanding Hungarian and Czech athletes and teams to the Soviet Union in time to acquire this sort of experience before the Olympic Games at Helsinki. Of course, the Communist Hungarian press and sports leaders misled the Hungarian public by highly praising and over-estimating the abilities of the Soviet athletes, and they demanded that as many Hungarian athletes as possible be sent to the Soviet Union to learn from their Soviet comrades.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

WARNING.—Material on the reverse of this sheet may carry a classification of CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET, or TOP SECRET.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Date of Info.—The date or dates on which, or between which, the events described in the report occurred or the conditions described existed.

Place Acquired.—The place where the information was first acquired by a controlled individual. A date following in parentheses indicates when the information was acquired.

Source Description.—A description of the individual **from** whom, and, when pertinent, of any other individual **through** whom the information was received.

Source Evaluation.—An indication of the reliability of a source, expressed either verbally or by means of a letter inserted parenthetically in the source description. Reliability includes competence, objectivity, honesty, and other factors likely to affect the accuracy of the source's reports. The source evaluation is definitive in the sense that it reflects everything known about the source, including his previous record of reporting. If the report was received **from** one source **through** another, each is evaluated separately. The key follows:

A: Completely reliable. B: Usually reliable. C: Fairly reliable. D: Not usually reliable. E: Not reliable (applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F: Reliability cannot be judged (applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

Appraisal of Content.—A tentative opinion by the issuing office as to the probable truth of the report, expressed either verbally or by means of a number from 1 through 6. It is based on immediately available information which may or may not be complete, and does not purport to constitute final evaluation. The key follows:

1: Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2: Probably true. 3: Possibly true. 4: Doubtful. 5: Probably false. 6: Cannot be judged. Documentary: Based on an original document which has been seen by a staff member of the issuing office.

The appraisal of content is independent of the source evaluation. A "B" source may submit a "4" report; and "E" source may submit a "1" report. Reliable sources tend to produce accurate reports, and conversely a series of accurate reports tends to establish the reliability of the source, but there is no necessary correlation in any particular instance.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1953—O-265182

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

This campaign stirred public curiosity and a desire to see the "big teachers" perform in Hungary.

3. This opportunity came when, to coincide with the World Youth Meeting in the Summer of 1949, the Hungarian sport authorities organized the "World Championships for University Students" in Budapest, in which Soviet athletes were invited to compete. As far as I could see in observing the competitions, the Soviet athletes were better than ours only in basketball and softball. They had a few good athletes in the fields of boxing, wrestling, weight lifting, and track and field. As a national team, however, they were on a lower level than the Hungarians. In spite of this, at the end of the competitions the Soviets won an "overwhelming victory" over the other nationalities participating. Hungarian sports fans were very objective in accepting the victory of the best team, but they revolted against unjust decisions. During the competitions the spectators yelled and whistled as one to express their angry indignation, and with good reason. The Soviet sports leaders forced the other participants to accept "homemade" Soviet rules during the championship [redacted] these rules meant great handicaps for the other athletes. 50X1

50X1 [redacted]

teams visited the training sessions of the Hungarian teams several times. Then they "prescribed" tournament rules for the Hungarian, Czechoslovak, Polish, and Rumanian referees to follow during the championships. Of course, these rules were against internationally accepted rules and gave the advantage to the Soviets. The Soviet referees always gave the maximum points to the Soviet gymnasts and marked down the others, and the Soviets always won overwhelmingly. If non-Soviet referees protested against unjustified qualifications, the managing committee dismissed them and substituted "loyal" referees. The spectators screamed, raged, swore, and whistled until strong police forces came, which "cleared Nazi and fascist elements" from among the spectators. The situation was just the same in other competitions. The only exception was boxing, where non-Soviet sportsmen could win if they were able to knock out their Soviet opponents. If a bout did not end in a knockout, however, non-Soviets were marked down by the referees. In track and field competitions the referees disqualified the non-Soviet winners and gave the victory to the Soviets. By the end of the championships the Soviets had booked a great many victories and the Soviet athletes "won the admiration of the whole world".

4. [redacted]

50X1

5. The Soviets, after the 1949 championships, started to participate in many international sports events and learned the international rules and requirements. They quickly changed their methods to conform and developed their sports to the high international level. Then, to our great consternation, they criticized Hungarian sports again, saying that we were backward, that they would teach us and

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

WARNING.—Material on the reverse of this sheet may carry a classification of CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET, or TOP SECRET.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Date of Info.—The date or dates on which, or between which, the events described in the report occurred or the conditions described existed.

Place Acquired.—The place where the information was first acquired by a controlled individual. A date following in parentheses indicates when the information was acquired.

Source Description.—A description of the individual **from** whom, and, when pertinent, of any other individual **through** whom the information was received.

Source Evaluation.—An indication of the reliability of a source, expressed either verbally or by means of a letter inserted parenthetically in the source description. Reliability includes competence, objectivity, honesty, and other factors likely to affect the accuracy of the source's reports. The source evaluation is definitive in the sense that it reflects everything known about the source, including his previous record of reporting. If the report was received **from** one source **through** another, each is evaluated separately. The key follows:

A: Completely reliable. B: Usually reliable. C: Fairly reliable. D: Not usually reliable. E: Not reliable (applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F: Reliability cannot be judged (applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

Appraisal of Content.—A tentative opinion by the issuing office as to the probable truth of the report, expressed either verbally or by means of a number from 1 through 6. It is based on immediately available information which may or may not be complete, and does not purport to constitute final evaluation. The key follows:

1: Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2: Probably true. 3: Possibly true. 4: Doubtful. 5: Probably false. 6: Cannot be judged. Documentary: Based on an original document which has been seen by a staff member of the issuing office.

The appraisal of content is independent of the source evaluation. A "B" source may submit a "4" report; and "E" source may submit a "1" report. Reliable sources tend to produce accurate reports, and conversely a series of accurate reports tends to establish the reliability of the source, but there is no necessary correlation in any particular instance.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1953—O 265182

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

that we would have to adopt their methods. And, throwing away the old methods which they had forced us to follow previously, they subjected us again to the "acquisition of experiences" process. Again, they were the "wise teachers" and we were the "thankful pupils". This followed the idea that the Soviet Union is the land of Socialism, well on the way toward building up the ideal Communist State and we, the poor Hungarians, had just started building toward Socialism. We could not be better in any respect than the Soviets, knowing that they were the source of wisdom, science, wealth, prosperity, etc. We could only hope to learn from them. An example is the case of the world-famous Hungarian soccer team. A couple of months before the Helsinki Olympic Games the Soviets called our national soccer team to Moscow, where Soviet sportsmen were making preparations for the Olympics. Apparently the people were to believe that the best soccer team in Europe needed coaching from the Soviets, or a "transfer of experiences" (tapasztalat átadás), as this process was termed. Our team played several matches in Moscow and lost all except one, which was tied. After returning from Moscow the Hungarian Communist leaders reported how much our team learned from the "glorious Soviet players". When our team won the Olympic Championship, the Hungarian press and radio stated that without the aid of Soviet teaching we could not have won any championship, even in soccer.

6. After the Helsinki Olympics the Soviets invited the victorious Eastern European athletes to compete in the Soviet Union. The main purpose of this competition was to give the Soviet athletes a chance to defeat the sportsmen who defeated them in Helsinki. Naturally, the Soviets defeated their guests and remained the "wise teachers", in accordance with the idea that we must not be better than they.

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4

WARNING.—Material on the reverse of this sheet may carry a classification of CONFIDENTIAL, SECRET, or TOP SECRET.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Date of Info.—The date or dates on which, or between which, the events described in the report occurred or the conditions described existed.

Place Acquired.—The place where the information was first acquired by a controlled individual. A date following in parentheses indicates when the information was acquired.

Source Description.—A description of the individual **from** whom, and, when pertinent, of any other individual **through** whom the information was received.

Source Evaluation.—An indication of the reliability of a source, expressed either verbally or by means of a letter inserted parenthetically in the source description. Reliability includes competence, objectivity, honesty, and other factors likely to affect the accuracy of the source's reports. The source evaluation is definitive in the sense that it reflects everything known about the source, including his previous record of reporting. If the report was received **from** one source **through** another, each is evaluated separately. The key follows:

A: Completely reliable. B: Usually reliable. C: Fairly reliable. D: Not usually reliable. E: Not reliable (applied to sources of doubtful honesty or loyalty, regardless of their competence). F: Reliability cannot be judged (applied to untested or insufficiently tested sources).

Appraisal of Content.—A tentative opinion by the issuing office as to the probable truth of the report, expressed either verbally or by means of a number from 1 through 6. It is based on immediately available information which may or may not be complete, and does not purport to constitute final evaluation. The key follows:

1: Confirmed by other independent and reliable sources. 2: Probably true. 3: Possibly true. 4: Doubtful. 5: Probably false. 6: Cannot be judged. Documentary: Based on an original document which has been seen by a staff member of the issuing office.

The appraisal of content is independent of the source evaluation. A "B" source may submit a "4" report; and "E" source may submit a "1" report. Reliable sources tend to produce accurate reports, and conversely a series of accurate reports tends to establish the reliability of the source, but there is no necessary correlation in any particular instance.

U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1953—O 265182

Declassified in Part - Sanitized Copy Approved for Release @ 50-Yr 2013/06/04 : CIA-RDP82-00046R000200250008-4